



# Get Ready for National History Day

## Using Resources from the National Archives – New York



Each year, thousands of middle and high school students and teachers participate in National History Day (NHD), a year-long educational program that culminates in a national contest every June. The National History Day program provides a unique opportunity for students to gain firsthand experience conducting historical research and producing exhibits, essays, documentaries, media projects, and performances.

Participation in the NHD program begins at the local level, where regional activities feed state and national competitions. Students and teachers are encouraged to take advantage of the rich array of local history resources -- libraries, archives, museums, and historic sites -- in their communities to pursue topics of local, regional, or national interest in conjunction with the 2008 theme: **Conflict and Compromise in History**.

The National Archives – New York maintains Federal government records from New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. We have more than 85,000 cubic feet of historical records dating from the 1680s to the 1990s. Our records will be useful to your research covering many diverse topics. Let the National Archives and Records Administration - Northeast Region - New York City help you.

### Teacher Workshops

We offer short informational sessions on how to prepare for the local contests. Our workshops can help you:

- Learn what a primary source is, how best to use them, and where to find them.
- Identify how to use primary sources from the National Archives including finding aids and records available online.
- Participate in document analysis activities to increase critical thinking and historical research skills.
- Understand the research process and the importance of citing records properly.
- Review “key impact” (determining the relevance of primary sources to the research topic).
- Brainstorm issues with students and topics relating to the theme “Conflict and Compromise”.

We offer these *free* workshops in the fall and the spring. To learn more about upcoming workshops, please call *Dorothy Dougherty* toll-free at 866-840-1752 or send an e-mail to [newyork.archives@nara.gov](mailto:newyork.archives@nara.gov).

### Student Research Assistance

The National Archives and Records Administration – Northeast Region – New York City offers a wealth of primary sources that can be useful for your projects.

- Search our online primary sources related to National History Day topics via the Archival Research Catalog (ARC): <http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/education/national-history-day-2008.html>.
- Learn how to cite original materials at: <http://www.archives.gov/publications/general-info-leaflets/17.html>.
- Do original records research at our facility.

If you would like to schedule a researcher orientation or talk to an archivist, call us toll-free at 866-840-1752 or e-mail us at [newyork.archives@nara.gov](mailto:newyork.archives@nara.gov). You may also write to us at The National Archives and Records Administration – Northeast Region – New York, 201 Varick Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10014.

*Please note: students are welcome to come in and research, but if they are under the age of 14 they must be accompanied by a teacher, parent, or guardian.*

**For more information about National History Day, see the National History Day website at <http://www.nationalhistoryday.org/> or contact:**

**-- The New Jersey State contest coordinator at: <http://www.nhd.org/NewJersey.htm>**

**-- The New York State contest coordinator at: <http://www.nationalhistoryday.org/NewYork.htm>**



# National History Day 2008 Theme: Conflict and Compromise



## Sample Topics & Related Records from the National Archives – New York

### Conflict and Compromise in Big Business / Labor Management / Anti-Trust:

- Records of the War Labor Board (RG 202), 1942-1947, which include selected cases files of labor disputes, their mediation, and their settlement. They are for the Board's New York state and northern New Jersey areas (Region II).
- Records of the National Mediation Board (RG 13), 1962, which include the records of the Railroad Marine and Railroad Lighter Captains Commissions. These commissions were formed to help settle labor disputes in the New York harbor.
- Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (RG 155), New York and Puerto Rico regional offices, 1939-1945. The Division was established to administer the minimum wage, overtime, equal pay, and child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (1938).
- U.S. Court of Appeals records (RG 276). Unfair labor practice cases that are appealed from decisions of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) go to the Court of Appeals. There are usually transcripts of the NLRB proceedings in the case files.

#### *Specific cases include:*

- *The United States of America v. Hamburg-Amerikanische Packetfahrt-Actien-Gesellschaft et al*, ca. 1900–1915. This anti-trust case file contains the records of the investigation of the steamship company association's conspiracy to control and monopolize the transportation of third class steerage passengers enroute from Europe to and from the United States. The investigation resulted in the prosecution of the shipping companies in 1911 for practicing restrictive business practices in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

### The U.S. Constitution. Conflict and Compromise Over Civil Liberties and Individual Rights:

- In the matter of *Ralph Blocker*, 1962. This case deals with the segregation of African Americans in Manhasset School District #6. This is one of the cases that led up to the landmark segregation case, *Brown v Board of Ed*.
- *L. Hollingsworth Wood, Roger N. Baldwin, et al. v. Thomas G. Patten, Postmaster of the City of New York*, 1918. This equity case involved freedom of the press and speech issues during wartime. The issue was the effort of members of the National Civil Liberties Bureau (forerunner of the ACLU) to have various radical and anti-war pamphlets delivered through the mail. They won an injunction against the Postmaster.
- *The United States of America v. Jacob Abrams, Jacob Schwartz, Samuel Lipman, Hyman Rozansky, Hyman Lachowsky, and Molly Steimer, etc.*, 1918. An example of the struggle over freedom of speech during war. This is a landmark First Amendment, "free speech" case that was decided by the Supreme Court in 1919.
- *The United States of America v. Susan B. Anthony*, 1873. This women's suffrage case involved the arrest of Anthony for illegally registering to vote.
- *The United States of America v. Eugene Dennis, 1950*. *Dennis was tried along with others under the conspiracy provisions of the Smith Act, which made it a criminal offense to advocate the forceful overthrow of the government. The central legal question was if it was constitutional to make it a crime to advocate the overthrow of the government. The Supreme Court upheld the decision and the Smith Act.*

### Wartime Conflict and Compromise: Records relating to the war effort at home and abroad include:

- Correspondence and Photographs of Bond Campaigns (RG 56), 1944–1962.
- Correspondence files of the Third Naval District and the New York Navy Yard (RG 181), 1826-1968. Many subjects are covered by the filing manual.
- *U.S. vs. Julius & Ethel Rosenberg and Martin Sobell* (RG 21), 1951. The Rosenbergs were charged with conspiracy to commit espionage, a capital crime. Both were found guilty and hanged for treason against the U.S. Government.

**To learn more about these or other records in our holdings, call us toll-free at 866-840-1752 or send an e-mail to [newyork.archives@nara.gov](mailto:newyork.archives@nara.gov). You may also write or visit us at:  
The National Archives and Records Administration – Northeast Region – New York  
201 Varick Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10014.**